oilseeds production of 155 lakh tonnes is expected during 1988-89; and this will help reduce import of edible oil to less than 50 per cent of the previous year's level.

Workshop on Planning Development and Administration of Metropolitan Region

425. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Urban problem in the country was not given adequate attention so far;

(b) whether a three day workshop on Planning Development and Administration of Metropolitan Region in India was organised by the Ministry of Urban Development; and

(c) if so, what were the decision taken in the Seminar and to what extent Government are likely to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Appropriate urban development plans are formulated and implemented by State Governments and Union Territories in accordance with their needs and prior ties out of their annual plan provisions.

(b) Yes, Sir; by the School of Planning and Architecture.

(c) Some of the important recommendations of the Workshop relate to regional approach in planning for the development of metropolitan cities, creation of Metropolitan Regional Planning Boards, adoption of such development strategies which combine minimum intervention with the acceptance of the pressures for growth in the metropolitan core, review of the policy on industrial location, unified, transport authorities strengthening of the local self government bodies, proper land use control system, use of remote sensing techniques to monitor physical growth and role of private sector in the process of urban development.

These recommendations of the workshop have been circulated to all the States/Union Territories.

Import of Foodgrains

426. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the annual imports of foodgrains in the country during the 7th five year plan;

(b) the amount of subsidy which Government had been paying every year in their distribution; and

(c) the subsidy paid in the last year of 6th five year plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) During the Seventh five year plan the Government imported a quantity of 20.11 lakh tonnes of wheat and 6.84 lakh tonnes of rice, in the year 1988-89.

(b) The accounts for 1988-89 will be finalised in due course. However, the subsidy on the distribution of the above quantity of imported foodgrains is estimated at about Rs. 336.68 crores.

(c) Does not arise as no imports were effected.

Special allotment of rice to Kerala

427. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special allotment of rice from the Central pool is likely to be given for Kerala in the coming months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment of Newspapers Registration Act

428. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Newspapers Registration Act; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill, 1988 was introduced in the House on 5-12-1988. The views of the newspapers representation will be taken into consideration before proceeding further with the Bill.

Allotment of Agricultural land to women

429. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to allot agricultural land specifically to women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Various State Governments have taken legal and administrative measures to implement the 6th Plan directive of providing joint titles/pattas to women in the matter of allotment of land for agriculture and house-sites purposes. In the Conference of Revenue Minister held in December, 1988 the consensus was that specific targets could be considered for allotting land specifically to women beneficiaries. Land being a State subject State Governments are competent to allot land specifically to rural poor women pursuant to this consensus

Use of plastics in Agriculture

430. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to launch any pilot programme to promote the use of plastics in Agriculture from the coming April; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the said programme and the States alongwith the areas which are being considered for the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15 districts in 13 States have been identified. This programme is aimed at popularising the use of plastics in drip irrigation, pond/canal lining, Green house, hail protection nets and plastic crates.

Setting up of food processing units with World Bank assistance

431. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank had agreed to provide assis-